

For Immediate Release:
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**SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES MIKE CHRISMAN ANNOUNCES
 \$1.6 MILLION FOR LOS ANGELES RIVER PARKWAYS**

**Proposition 12 Funding Will Benefit River Parkway Projects
 in the Los Angeles River Watershed**

Sacramento – Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman today announced grant awards totaling \$1.6 million to help fund Los Angeles River Parkways projects.

“Protecting our watersheds is a primary goal of the Resources Agency and of benefit to all Californians and visitors to our state,” said Secretary Chrisman. “These projects will create or enhance trails for families and communities in the Los Angeles River watershed and will also restore and protect wildlife habitat for future generations.”

The grants, made possible through the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Act of 2000 (Proposition 12), will be used for the restoration, protection and development of areas within the Los Angeles River watershed, along rivers, streams and creeks, funding nearly 10 acres of natural parkway and three miles of walking trails.

“Working together, we can continue to restore, preserve, and enhance California’s natural resources and provide access and recreation for both Californians and visitors,” Chrisman said.

In 2002, the voters of California passed Proposition 12, which authorized the Legislature to appropriate funds for the acquisition, restoration, protection and development of river parkways. The Los Angeles River Parkway Program, a competitive grant program, is administered by the Secretary for Resources and awards funds to public agencies and non-profit organizations to develop river parkways in their communities.

This is the second and final round of Proposition 12 Los Angeles River Parkways funding awards. The first round of Los Angeles River Parkways was awarded on Oct. 27, 2003, totaling \$9.4 million and benefiting eight projects.

(more)

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All proposed projects awarded funding must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Funding for proposed project implementation is contingent upon satisfactory evidence of compliance. To be approved by lead agency decision makers, the proposed projects may change as a result of the CEQA process. However, any changes to the proposed projects must continue to meet all of the objectives of the River Parkways Program and be consistent with the intent cited in the original applications.

A list of the selected proposed projects follows:

City of San Gabriel - Vincent Lugo Park Renovation Project - \$500,637

The project will expand and improve the park's open space and develop improved access to recreational activities along the Alhambra Wash. Included in this phase is the addition of approximately one-half mile of interpretive walking trail along the Wash, native plantings and a dry bed collection channel for urban runoff.

“San Gabriel is thrilled and honored to be awarded \$500,637 in Prop. 12 funds from the California Resources Agency to help fund the implementation of the Vincent Lugo Park Master Plan. A big thank you to everyone who assisted in the preparation of the grant application and the presentation of the project to the State Resources Agency. The award reflects the importance of this project to our community.”

Kevin Sawkins
Mayor of San Gabriel

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority - Compton Creek – Washington Elementary Natural Park - \$610,126

On property owned by the Washington Elementary School, the project will create a three-acre natural park with native riparian plantings and passive park amenities such as benches and interpretive displays, providing habitat protection, storm water quality improvements and associated interpretive uses for users of the adjacent Compton Creek Bike trail, as well as the school's students.

“I am truly excited. This is a victory for our children and the community. This project will mean so much to everyone.”

Councilwomen Yvonne Arceneaux
3rd District, City of Compton

“I am so happy we will have this wonderful amenity for the community. This kind of park will give people, especially the children, a chance to experience and learn about nature and the environment.”

Marjorie Shipp
Vice-President, Compton Unified School District Board

(more)

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority - Los Angeles River Greenway - Elysian Valley Bikeway - \$536,519

This project will provide for additional access points to a 2.5 mile bikeway along the Los Angeles River, using storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) with native planting at key locations.

“The Proposition 12 funding for the Elysian Valley Bikeway project is the critical fertilizer that will help the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan grow into a thriving ‘emerald necklace’ of pocket parks, bikeways and walkways connecting our communities.”

Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

“The success of the L.A. River Revitalization Plan has drawn support from agencies around the country. Working with the Mountains Recreational Conservation Authority, these funds will bring people back to the river, making it a recreational space for our families to enjoy while greening the scenery and improving quality of life along the river.”

Eric Garcetti
President, Los Angeles City Council

“This grant award is evidence of our new approach to Los Angeles River revitalization--one that requires ongoing communication and partnerships so that improvements are integrated into a comprehensive watershed-wide system that results in simultaneous benefits in complementary areas, including recreation, water quality, and habitat connectivity.”

Gary Lee Moore
City Engineer, City of Los Angeles